

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Section - A

SOCIAL MEDIA IS REWIRING
HUMANITY & WE ARE AT THE CROSS-
ROADS OF ITS PROMISE & ITS PERIL.

We live in a highly socialized
& integrated world. Social Media has
a huge role to play in this connectedness.
A recent example of Youtuber
Mr. Beast highlights this. To generate
awareness about Deforestation &
Climate change, he took to internet
& pledged to plant 20 million trees
in 2 months.

He used his social media
influence to get bigshots like Elon
Musk & Jack Dorsey to help him
achieve his plantation targets. This
offers a promise for future.

In another instance, the
famed Actor Johnny Depp was a

victim of 'Cancel Culture' online. He was bullied, launched personal attacks & name-shamed for inciting Domestic Violence. Later it turned out, he was not the perpetrator but victim of Domestic abuse who suffered wrath of intolerant users on internet. This instance was perilous for him.

From above two contrasting incidents we saw how a single platform can offer both hope & misery to everyone. Social Media is ubiquitous today & we will understand how it has altered the way we interact with rest of humanity. We will look at its promises & perils from various dimensions like Society, Environment, Security, Ethics, etc. in this write-up & try to come up with a best possible way forward.

Social Media: Rewiring humanity.

Social media has changed the way we interact with everything & everyone around us. Social Media is essentially group of platforms that allows its users to share information with each others. This information could be through chats, news, advertising, etc.

Social Media has made an individual as its product. Everything revolves with him at center. A person has his friends, relatives, interests, products, etc. only a 'one-click' away. For example, Facebook allows users to link with school friends, companies, national leaders or pretty much anybody across the world.

Sharing ideas & opinions have become faster & wider using these platforms. Ex-president of USA, Donald Trump's tweets reached his followers across the world even before White House personnel. Instantness & far reach are two important features of social media. In fact, popular image sharing platform 'Instagram' has 'insta' in its name.

It has also allowed creation of groups/clusters of people with same beliefs, opinions, ideas & facilitating their growth. e.g. you can instantly connect with people with same religious beliefs as you or same part as you (say a college) & algorithm is designed in this way that all of this is automatic. This has led to large scale groupism

of same minds & similar ideas. So, what are the promises of all of these?

Promises of Social Media.

For an individual, benefits of social media are aplenty. He/she can find jobs, find life partners, find friends or just find a new interest. And best thing of all is, algorithm suggests all of this automatically.

Social Media has become a platform for artists to spread their Art. Musicians, Bands, Painters, etc. frequently go on social media to promote upcoming projects or get feedback from their fan following. They can even monetize their paintings or photos using

the NFTs (Non Fungible Tokens) - a new buzzword of today's times.

The promise is also visible in societal aspect. There is a larger awareness & spread of social issues. Violation of human rights in one corner of the world becomes viral in other part of the world.

For e.g. the Umbrella Movement of Hong Kong against Chinese assertive posture on democracy or violation of basic rights of Uighur Muslims of Xinjiangs have generated global sympathy & awareness on these issues. People across the world show their solidarity by

sharing their plight on social media

Also, the '#MeToo' movement against Women harassment & rapes was possible due to its spread via social media. Originating in USA, it traversed national borders to spread in Europe, India, Australia, etc. to put in spotlights the perpetrators like Harvey Weinstein or MJ Akbar.

Social Media has also been a ~~platform~~ for proactive governance. Apart from connecting with voters & citizens, it has also been a platform to help the people. e.g. Late foreign minister Sushma swaraj was an example of proactiveness in administration

When she extended help to the NRIs stuck in Yemen, Saudi Arabia or Cuba. All they had to do was to use Twitter expressing their concerns & Minister was at their rescue.

There is also a greater environmental awareness & action on ground due to social media. The influence of climate activists like 16 year old Greta Thunberg & her 'Fridays for Future' have wide spread among her social media followers.

Social media has made us aware about Climate change, Global Warming, Coral bleaching, etc. too. However not everything is hunky-dory.

Social media: All that glitters is not gold.

All the hopes & positive aspects of social media also has concerns & negative aspects to it.

In society, the rising intolerance, Online harassment, Cyber Bullying etc. have perpetrated to great lengths via these platforms. The evil of Mob lynching & instant justice have given rise to harassment of minorities by vigilante groups.

The wide spread of fake news & deepfakes has led to erosion of trust & authenticity of media. Revenge porn, political fake speech,

blackmailing, etc. has festered due to these phenomenas.

If we look in international politics, social media has also raised concerns. The Cambridge Analytica project aimed at influencing voter behaviour during US presidential elections is globally known.

Also, the Russian governments interference in Eastern European nations like Ukraine, Romania, Latvia by influencing public opinion using whatsapp & Facebook has raised concerns about sovereignty in these nations. In fact, Lithuania came up with 'Demashuk' (Debunk) software to

highlight & alert Russian fake news.
One of the major peril of Social Media is Security. Use of Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp by terrorist groups like ISIS or Taliban to recruit youth or spread propaganda is an international security threat.

Need for cyber security of both individuals & nations is ~~threat~~ necessary which has led to new awareness of Data Privacy, Data Localization in the BS Srikrishna guidelines. Social media should not threaten these pivotal aspects of humans.
All these promises & perils should make us proactive in deciding

which course we should take.

Social media is inherently
a neutral medium, it is us-
users who determine whether
we use it for constructive or
destructive purposes. This
constructiveness we should
ensure by greater cyber awareness,
digital literacy & global cooperations.

It is in our hands to
ensure that the humanity is
set on the path of development.
A social media plays a promising
role in this. This will ensure
a global good.

Remember,

Social Media is the Times
Square of the 21st century.

- Bill gates.

Section - 13.

DISSENT IS THE SAFETY VALVE OF A DEMOCRACY

In recent years, Agriculture has been under a distress. Untimely rains, lack of fair price in markets & the recent Three Farm laws aimed at increasing private's role in Agriculture had been worrying farmers. Especially against farm laws, farmers have been protesting at Singhu border to get these laws repealed.

The covid spread, lockdown, police brutality nothing broke their will & it has been more than a year in this fight. At last, their courage & resilience was rewarded when these farm laws were repealed thus protecting

their income & livelihood. If they would have not dissented, it might've led to farmer suicides, loss of income, & misery & despair amongst farmers.

We saw from the above story how protest - a form of dissent was important tool which farmers used to vent their concerns.

Thus, dissent & debate are an vital components of democracy.

We will analyze this from Historical, Social, Environmental, Ethical, etc. dimensions & try to understand its importance in the nation.

Dissent is a medium to voice of popular opinion. It allows the people to put forward their issues, concerns, problems in front of the democratic institutions.

This could be manifested in the

form of protests, hartal, strikes,
news reports, etc.

Dissent acts as a safety valve to release the steam of discontent, injustice, apathy, etc. that people have against government. If this steam is not released, then there is a breakdown in democracy which might lead to stagnant societies or eruption of people's wrath. e.g. the Arab Spring is an outcome of suppression of women & human rights in autocratic states of West Asia like Tunisia, Libya & Iraq.

Historically, dissent has been an important component of Indian democracy. The National Emergency of 1975-76 by

Indira Gandhi government stifled & suppressed people's & media's voice. This gave rise to a strong JP Movement.

Strong movement led by Jayprakash Narayan against the authoritarian rule garnered huge following of people & media who wanted their Right to Dissent in Free Democracy being restored. These protests were eventually successful & it strengthened democratic ideals & constitutional supremacy in India since it was people who took action.

In society, this safety valve theory holds too. The Nirbhaya Gang Rape case of 2012

in Delhi shook entire nation. Although there were sections which justified that there is security & safety of women available, the people's movement was not convinced.

A dissenting voice in the form of strong pan-national movement in solidarity with Nirbhaya began. It demanded Justice, Women safety, Fairness, etc. from the government. The result was establishment of JS Verma Committee to strengthen Women safety & death sentence to the perpetrators.

In polity, 'dissent is the lifeblood of political institutions'

The central idea of Parliament is to allow it to be a platform where Contrasting ideas & opinions can be debated & ensure that the Opposition Party acts as a 'check & balance' on majority rule.

Thus, dissent & disapproval to ensure people's welfare is maximized. Even Vice President Venkayya Naidu acknowledged this by saying that Parliament runs on 3Ds - Debates, Discussion & Dissent.

Even constitution of India allows for voicing people their opinion through Right to Liberty under Article 21 & Freedom of Speech & Expression under

Article 19 to allow citizens to
talk back to people in power

Even international democracies
too allow people to question &
challenge the status quo that
their governments try to establish.
For e.g. a strong movement
against the Arms & Ammunition
Lobby & demand for strict
Gun laws after School Shootings
(in Ohio, Washington) has shook
the government which has been
criticized of protecting the Gun
lobbies' interests. Such acts of
challenging the status quo doesn't
threaten Democracy but are in
fact a testimony of its thriving
& progress which has people's

voice at its core.

Such challenging of status quo promoted by government is also seen in Environmental realm.

Climate activists like late

Sunderlal Bahuguna & Medha Patkar questioned the government developmental efforts in mega-hydro power plants.

They protested & generated people's movements to stop these projects at 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' or against 'Tehri Power Plant' to generate awareness about the plight of tribals & marginalized affected by these projects.

Their demands for proper

rehabilitation & protection of their livelihood have forced the government to ensure a better outcome for these communities.

Looking at the role of dissent as a safety valve. From Ethical viewpoint gives us a way forward. Dissent ensures that 'Democracy is for the people, of the people & by the people'. It solidifies the preamble's starting line 'We the people.....' by ensuring that people & their voice is the real power of democracy.

This voice if dissenting is a sign of growth of democracy. It ensures people's participation in decision making, constructive

Criticism & allows government to course correct its policies to maximize the welfare. It establishes a two-way conversation between citizens & the government.

We need to understand that governments are not established to create 'police state'. But they are created to establish 'Welfare state' where it is the people who decide their welfare. Thus, dissent from civil rights activists, Media, Social media, etc. are not aimed at chipping authority of institutions but to create better societies for the future.

Thus, voicing of opinions, concerns & respecting dissent

as a safety valve is of utmost importance for a nation state.

↳ Remember, dissent is present in conversations

Democracy establishes a Conversation between citizens & the power elites they have chosen.

- Anonymous.

Social media is rewiring humanity & we are at the crossroads of its promise & its peril.

Intro → Mr. Beas → 20 mil plants → 2 mnt → Influence (Promise)
Johnny Depp → #Cancel culture → Dom. abuse (Peril)

Nat → 2 contrast e.g. → same medium. → promise, peril
→ way we interact → world → how rewiring. →
→ promise & peril → Cult, ^{Polity, IR, Env} ~~Environment~~ ---

Rewiring humanity: - Define soc media.

- ↳ Way we interact → FB, Twitter. (clusters of same minds)
- ↳ Share ideas → faster (Times square → 21st cent)
- ↳ Advt., targetting. → FB → voice capture.
- ↳ Centered around human/individual → celebrate unique.
- ↳ No delay → instant → 21st cent. → Jobs, friends, life partners (connect anyone)

Bill Gates

Malaise of modernity.

Promise.

- ↳ Art & Cult → platform → emerging artists. → monetize → NFTs.
- ↳ Society → #MeToo, Uighur, Umbrella movmt.
- ↳ Admt. → Transp Proactive → Sushma Swaraj → help NRI.
- ↳ Envmt. → Awareness Genera. → Greta

Peril

- ↳ Society → Mob justice (lynching), Harassment, Bullying
- ↳ ^{IR} ~~Media~~ → Cambridge Analytics
- ↳ Media → fake news, deepfakes.
- ↳ Security → Terrorism, cyber security, Data privacy, protec. → BN Srikrishna.

Conclu → We determine → what course → neutral → +ve or -ve.
→ potential → awareness, interac, global togetherness

Dissent is the safety valve of democracy

Intro - Farmers protest → Farm bills → Singhu border → covid-lockdown → still → at last → non-passing → win → if not farmers suicide.

Next → Dissent → necessary. Analyze → historical society, - - -

Dissent → voice popular opinions → give govt. course correct → allows anger, discontent - stem out. → Not applicable → autocracy → stagnant, ensure → power in people.

Manifesta?
↳ protest, news, strikes.

(Gandhi Revolu.
Arab Spring)

History → JP Munt. → Emergency → Gandhi → thrive → promote → constituⁿ strengthen.

Society → Nirbhaya → Women rights, justice, safety, fairness

Polity → Democratic insti → Parliament → opposiⁿ → Debate / platform → e.g. Liberty (Art. 19, 21)
Vice Presi

Global → Anti-gun → school shoot → USA. (thrive)

Envmt → Medha Patkar - Narmada, Sunderlal

Bahuguna - Tehri → protect. poor, rehabilitaⁿ.

Ethical → Democr ↑, People parti ↑,
~~stake~~ → For people, by people ↑, highlights

mistakes happen, be better, two-way street.
constructive criti

end → Not est. for police state → aware of people → unka opinion, voice, concern → subart in p. → power stems from people.